



M E D I A R E L E A S E
STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BLED SOE CREEK STATE PARK HOSTS EARTH DAY CELEBRATION; APRIL 19
EVENT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK**

Nashville, Tenn. - Bledsoe Creek State Park in Gallatin will observe Earth Day and National Wildlife Week with a series of special events and programs April 19.

"Earth Day is a wonderful time to enjoy the beauty of nature at Bledsoe Creek," said Wayne Bomar, park manager. "We have plenty of family-oriented activities to entertain and to educate people about our state's natural resources, and we have a great setting to appreciate its natural beauty with a relaxing picnic lunch or invigorating hike."

A bird walk will kick off the event at 8:30 a.m. Led by John Froeschauer, a Tennessee State Parks interpretive specialist, this hike will introduce participants to several native bird species found along Bledsoe Creek's trails.

Children are encouraged to take part in "Kids Zone" activities from 10 a.m. to noon. Special events during this time will include seed planting, face painting and scientific experiments.

Other activities and demonstrations will be held throughout the day. David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks West Tennessee Regional Naturalist, will educate visitors about the natural world - especially its birds of prey. Haggard will appear with an American Bald Eagle, providing visitors with the rare opportunity to see one of these majestic creatures from just a few feet away. The event also will include beehive demonstrations and access to both a butterfly garden and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's aquarium.

Bledsoe Creek State Park, which encompasses 164 acres, is situated on the Bledsoe Creek embayment of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Old Hickory Reservoir. The park is known for its boating and fishing opportunities. It also offers several miles of hiking trails for visitors to enjoy.

Tennessee's 54 state parks offer diverse natural, recreational and cultural experiences for individuals, families, or business and professional groups. State park features range from pristine natural areas to 18-hole championship golf courses. For a free brochure about Tennessee State Parks, call 1-888-867-2757. For additional information, visit our Web site at www.tnstateparks.com.

For more information about this Earth Day event, call Bledsoe Creek State Park at (615) 452-3706.

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